

# NEWS

Issue 1 – May 2015

Road  
Victims  
Trust  
Giving hope to rebuild lives

## Welcome

Welcome to the Road Victims Trust newsletter. This year marks our 20th Anniversary and we are proud to have been able to offer our support to so many people over the twenty years. This would simply not have been possible without the help and dedication of so many people and we would like to offer our sincere thanks to all who made it possible.

We hope this and forthcoming newsletters will keep you up to date with Trust news and forthcoming events.

## Who we are, what we do and who we support

The Road Victims Trust was established in 1995 in Bedfordshire by families bereaved by fatal road collisions who in their time of need had no specialist support available. Since 1995 the service has been expanded from Bedfordshire and Luton to Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, supporting all those affected by fatal road collisions. A much needed service when lives are turned upside-down by a sudden, unexpected and often violent death. A unique local service unmatched nationally in its aim to meet the needs of often forgotten road collision victims.

A team of four staff Coordinators and 40 Counselling Volunteers provide the service across the three counties, backed up by the Trust Administrator Alison Panton. The team works with the grief and trauma experienced by those referred to us, offering emotional and practical support alongside information on the legal and coronial procedure that follow a road death, as well as support on the day at inquests and criminal courts. We work with those affected for as long as it is useful, which may mean two years of weekly home-based support sessions or a short period of weekly telephone sessions.

In 2014/15 we supported 249 individuals or families whose lives were tragically changed by the 124 collision referrals we received.

## Funding and Support

The Road Victims Trust has formed Partnerships with the three police forces of Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire, and the Coroner, and our service level agreements ensure that we are informed of every fatal collision across the three counties. The Trust receives funding and support from the three Police and Crime Commissioners, and also seeks support from grant making foundations, corporates, fundraising and individuals. We work closely with the Road Safety partnerships across the three counties.

## Say Hello . . .

**Mark Turner** took on the role of Chief Executive of the Road Victims Trust in May 2014.



Previously Mark served 30 years as a police officer in Bedfordshire retiring at the rank of Chief Superintendent. His past experiences include working within Roads Policing, Firearms Command, Hostage Negotiation and Public Order Incidents.



The Trust now has a Fundraising Manager for the first time, to raise awareness and

increase funds to help the sustainability of the charity.

**Jenny Hillam** previously worked for the children's charity Dreamflight and has over 20 years of fundraising and event experience.

If you have any fundraising ideas, need advice, or would like to get involved as a fundraising volunteer, please contact Jenny, she would love to hear from you.

**Email: [jennyh@rvtrust.co.uk](mailto:jennyh@rvtrust.co.uk)**

To donate to Road Victims Trust visit  
**[www.rvtrust.org.uk](http://www.rvtrust.org.uk)**

Charity No: 1142336

146 Bedford Road  
Kempston, Bedford MK42 8BH  
Tel: 01234 843345  
Email: [enquiries@rvtrust.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@rvtrust.co.uk)

## QUEEN'S AWARD FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICES



The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

*The MBE for volunteer groups*

In July 2014 over 60 people attended Bedfordshire Police Headquarters to witness the presentation of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Services to the Road Victims Trust.

The presentation, made by HM Lord Lieutenant Helen Nellis, was in recognition of the work of Counselling Volunteers who provide emotional and practical support to persons affected by road death in Bedfordshire.

This is a wonderful accolade and such a fitting tribute to our magnificent volunteer workforce and highly skilled staff. We are thrilled to receive the award and will continue to do all we can to provide support to persons at their lowest possible ebb.

Chief Constable of Bedfordshire, Colette Paul QPM, was present on the night and added her own tribute saying: "The work of the volunteers and the Trust as a whole is magnificent. Bedfordshire Police is delighted to be partners and to support those affected by road death."



**The Road Victims Trust would like to invite you to join Club 1000**

**You can make a significant difference to a person or family by joining.**

**The Club is open to companies (small and large) and individuals who pledge to raise £1,000 within a one-year period, the cost of supporting one person.**

**Once you have joined Club 1000 you will receive a membership certificate and a fundraising pack, plus invitations to join the many events we hold over the year.**

**We will also promote your success on our website, social media platforms and newsletters.**

**You will also receive our quarterly newsletter to keep you updated on news, events and other members of the club.**

**For a membership pack and further information email:**

**[jennyh@rvtrust.co.uk](mailto:jennyh@rvtrust.co.uk)**

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## Forthcoming Events

*Some dates for your diary in 2015*

### MAY

**14 May – Luton and District Electrical Society Golf Day** at Mentmore Golf Club, Leighton Buzzard.

If you would like to enter a team or require further information on this event please contact Paul Jones: [paulj@1ainstalec.co.uk](mailto:paulj@1ainstalec.co.uk) Tel: 07836 656356



**31 May – Tandem Skydive, Hinton Airfield**

*Are you a fun-seeking adrenalin junky? Then look no further – we have the event for you!*

Book a place on our Tandem Skydive and raise much-needed funds for the Trust. The event will take place at Hinton Skydive Centre, Hinton Airfield, Steane, Northants NN13 5NS.

Places are still available. For booking form and further information contact Jenny Hillam: [jennyh@rvtrust.co.uk](mailto:jennyh@rvtrust.co.uk) (Tel: 01234 843345)

### JUNE

**6 June – 20th Anniversary Walk**

As part of our 20th anniversary celebrations we plan to walk one mile for every year the Trust has been in operation in the voluntary sector. If you would like to join us for the walk, which will start at Kempston Rovers Football Club, Hillgrounds Road in Kempston MK42 8SZ at 10am on Saturday 6 June, contact Mark Turner: [markt@rvtrust.co.uk](mailto:markt@rvtrust.co.uk)

**7 June – The Big Lunch, Bedford Park, Bedford**

The Road Victims Trust has joined forces with the Pavilion Café to bring you the **BIG LUNCH** on 7 June in Bedford Park. This is a chance for neighbours from different generations and backgrounds to meet, make new friendships and have fun in the sun. Bring your family and friends and lunch along, and enjoy eating and chatting with your neighbours in the beautiful surroundings of Bedford Park. Listen to music from The Lost Plot and join in the family sports day activities. Bring your dog along – it may win a prize in the dog show – and you can also join in the dog agility sessions with A.R.A.S Dog Rescue. There will be various stalls, a bouncy castle, face painting, beat the goalie, golf putting challenge, and much, much more.

To book a pitch for your business, or if you require further information, contact Jenny Hillam: [jennyh@rvtrust.co.uk](mailto:jennyh@rvtrust.co.uk) (01234 843345).



**25 June – Antiques Evening**

An evening at a local auction house – with a buffet, competition and an insight into how an auction house works. £15 per person. Organised by the Rotary Club of De Parys. For further information email: [enquiries@rvtrust.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@rvtrust.co.uk)

### AUGUST



**22 August – The Great Escape.** Magical mystery tour with a difference.

*Are you looking for a challenge? Then look no further – join us for the Great Escape on 22 August 2015. Get a team of four, find yourself a fancy-dress theme and sign up today. You will be dropped off in a secret location with no money, phone or credit cards and given a series of tasks to perform before making your way back to Bedford in the quickest time.*

*Intrigued? For further information contact Jenny Hillam: [jennyh@rvtrust.co.uk](mailto:jennyh@rvtrust.co.uk)*

### SEPTEMBER

**17–21 September – Extra Mile Challenge** arranged by the **Rotary Club of Bedford Park**. Calling all cycling enthusiasts – this is definitely for you .... go that EXTRA MILE for charity!

To take part in this event and further information contact: [andrew.morris@asheconstruction.co.uk](mailto:andrew.morris@asheconstruction.co.uk)

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## THANK YOU – It's impossible to thank everyone, but here are a few . . .



**Megan Kennedy** took part in the Flitwick 10K run on 19 April to help raise funds and awareness for the charity. She finished the run in 1 hour 20 minutes.

*Well done and thank you Megan.*

If you would like to help Megan reach her fundraising goal please go to:  
[www.justgiving.com/Megan-Kennedy1](http://www.justgiving.com/Megan-Kennedy1)

**Lee Belcher** Marathon Man ran 15 marathons back to back for 15 different charities and we were grateful to be lucky No 7.

Lee completed the 27.21 mile run in 4 hours, 4 minutes which is an average of 8.57 minutes a mile.

*We would like to thank Lee for his fantastic efforts.*

To sponsor Lee please go to:  
[www.justgiving.com/Leebelcherrunningman7](http://www.justgiving.com/Leebelcherrunningman7)



**Helen Burgin** ran the London Marathon on 26 April for RVT. We would like to thank Helen for taking on the challenge in the name of the charity. She has raised a fantastic amount so far, but if

you would like to add to that total go to:

[www.justgiving.com/Helen-Burgin1](http://www.justgiving.com/Helen-Burgin1)

*Thank you Helen!*

**Henry Wellbelove** and **Jamie Rawstone**

Cycled Coast 2 Coast from Whitehaven to Sunderland, an Incredible 225 KM, in memory of Archie Wellbelove. They raised an amazing £24,000 which will help pay for 24 people/families to receive our support in 2015.

*Thank you Henry and Jamie – what a great achievement!*



AFC Kempston and Bedford College are our first members of Club 1000 and we are delighted to welcome them to the club.

Gary Ingerson said: "We are proud to show our support for the Road Victims Trust and be one of the first to sign up to Club 1000". Thank You Gary and all at AFC Kempston and Bedford College.

We would also like to thank the Rotary Club of De Parys and Rotary Club of Bedford Castle for the events they arranged in aid of The Road Victims Trust. Our grateful thanks also go to our many, volunteers, fundraisers and supporters for their continued support.

**The Road Victims Trust is a charity and relies on the generosity of its supporters in order to be able to deliver the support to people in their time of need.**

**If you have the time you can help: With your school or college, with your friends, or on your own, at work or with your group, by taking part in an organised event, by forming a Fundraising Group, making a donation, or if you have great ideas for fundraising we would love to hear from you.**

**Please contact our Fundraising Manager Jenny Hillam for a chat.**

**email: [jennyh@rvtrust.co.uk](mailto:jennyh@rvtrust.co.uk) or 01234 843345**

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